

Remarks

This Response is submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action wherein the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 14-16, 19, and 20; and objected to claim 13 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 17 and 18 were previously withdrawn.

Claims 1-11, 19 and 20 remain pending. Claims 12-14 have been cancelled and claims 17 and 18 were previously withdrawn.

Examiner has indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if written in independent form. Claim 13 depended upon claim 12, which depended upon claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 12 and 13, and is in condition for allowance. Further, independent claims 16, 19 and 20 have been amended to include elements of claims 12 and 13 and are also in condition for allowance. The remainder of the currently pending claims depend from claim 1, and hence, are also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections, and issue an immediate favorable action thereon. If upon review of the application, the Examiner is unable issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney with a view towards resolving any outstanding issues.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Mauri A. Sankus, Esq.
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 42,275
Alcoa Technical Center
Intellectual Property
100 Technical Drive
Building C
Alcoa Center, PA 15069
Tele. No. 724-337-4658
Fax No. 724-337-5959